

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 52 June 2005 No. 6

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Calendar			
Sat., July 2	Coffeehouse, Town Hall, 7 pm	Fri., Aug. 26	Garrett Park Elementary open
Mon., July 4	4th of July activities (see article, p 3, and poster)	,8	house for students/parents to meet teachers, time TBA
Wed., July 6	Nonfiction Book Club, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sat., Aug. 27	Annual family crab feast at the pool, 5 pm
Sun., July 10	Grosvenor Market Day at the pool, 12–2 pm	Mon., Aug. 29	Start of public school for the year
Mon., July 11	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Sept. 5	No trash pickup; Labor Day
		Sun., Sept. 11	Pool closes
Mid July	Large item trash pickup	Mon., Sept. 12	Coffee/tea break, Penn Place; Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., July 22	Film society, <i>Tampopo</i> ; Town Hall, 7 pm (see p 8)		
Wed., July 27	Citizens Assoc. meeting, TBA	Tues., Sept. 13	Lunch Bunch; Town Hall, 12:30 pm <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 3 pm
Thurs., Aug. 4	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm		
Thurs., Aug. 18	Jam session, Town Hall, 7 pm	Wed., Sept. 28	Newcomers Welcome, Citizens Association; Town Hall, 8 pm

Traffic and Trees

On a wet, humid evening, over 20 citizens gathered at the Town Hall for the June Town Council meeting. It was great to see the meeting so well attended, a testimony in part to the town's new email system.

Bonnie Tyler spoke to the Council about the alarming speed of cars driving on Kenilworth Avenue. She suggested that the town rent a machine that flashes a driver's speed on a screen as he or she drives by: "These machines can be

helpful." The Mayor thanked her for the suggestion, and the Council will consider the idea.

Gene Brantly then spoke about the new shrubbery along Strathmore Avenue. Some of it is placed rather oddly. And: "Who will water the new trees and shrubs?" Councilmember Wegner replied that indeed some plantings have been badly sited. He has spoken to the State Highway people about it, and he plans to be persistent about getting something done. As for the water-(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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ing, "SHA is supposed to water for the first year." After that, the town and the residents take over.

Another Strathmore homeowner then rose to make a similar complaint: a tree near his property should definitely be moved. Councilmember Benjamin said that as long as we're talking about things that need to get done, there's the sidewalk at Oxford and Shelley Court, which Washington Gas has yet to take care of. As he spoke, the lights in the room began buzzing and dimming. Mordant remarks were made about utility providers.

In her report, Mayor Shawaker announced that our town won a Montgomery County Award for Historic Preservation for the Penn Place project, and that a number of townspeople involved in that project were able to be there for the ceremony. Kudos. Also regarding Penn Place, a representative from Kfoury Construction recently looked at the memorial brick project, and we're soon going to be able to get the installation going.

That was the good news in the Mayor's Report. The bad news was that Town Administrator Ted Pratt ran into passport difficulties while on vacation in England. He is possibly even now still standing in line at the American Embassy in London. His presence was missed at the meeting, especially when budget matters arose.

In Councilmember Reports, Karol Soltan noted a couple of worries of the Arboretum Committee, one involving possible conflicts between right of way and tree issues, and the other involving the risk that the taking down of trees in town might overwhelm the Committee's budget.

In his report, Hans Wegner again expressed disappointment at the placement of some of the plantings along Strathmore. But he also noted that Strathmore in general looks very pretty.

Although the lights had stopped buzzing and dimming by this point, things were now interrupted by the sound of a small gathering outside the building. Someone was making a speech, and a group of people was applauding the speech.

Eventually these sounds stopped. Your reporter has no idea what was going on. Perhaps some nascent effort to overthrow the government.

After Councilmember Reports, Bob Reinhardt, from the Historic Preservation Committee, updated the Mayor, Council, and town on an ongoing effort to amend the Garrett Park overlay "in order to preserve open space, as well as preserve the historic character of the town." Some elements of the existing overlay "let things slip through the cracks" and allow houses to be built that are arguably too big or bulky for our streetscape. The Council has already voted to write an amendment that would close up some of these gaps by maintaining allowable square footage but reducing the height and bulk of new construction. Park and Planning, and then the County Council, need to review and vote on this, so the town needs to work on the exact wording.

A lively discussion then ensued in response to Councilman Altar's proposed ordinance reducing the speed limit in Garrett Park from 25 to 19 miles per hour. The unusual number, he suggested, was more likely to attract attention. However, the town's lack of enforcement, as well as skepticism about the degree to which people obey speed limit signs under any circumstances, persuaded the Council that the idea needed more work.

Hans Wegner presented a brief update on the retaining walls along Strathmore. Although last month we had pretty much decided to go with fake stone, Hans now thinks that the drawbacks of that surface suggest that "we need to go back and find someone willing to give us a [real] stone quote." He hopes to have some estimates shortly.

The Council then voted that the following items be budget priorities: (1) a tractor, (2) repair of the Town Hall's front walk, and (3) Strathmore retaining walls. Other budget items (for instance, completion of lighting and Penn Place parking) will be placed in a contingency fund.

Councilmember Wegner now presented a Park Place update. We got four concept drawings of various parking, driving, and walking configurations from the engineers (the drawings are on the post office bulletin board). Hans does not understand why we got four plans when we asked for one, but in any case, plan 2 looks pretty much like what we asked for. The Mayor proposed that a special meeting be held on questions involving traffic and pedestrian configurations, costs, and so forth, and the Council seemed to agree.

There was some sentiment on the Council and in the audience for doing nothing at Park Place. One citizen, however, pointed out that this would ignore the town's clear desire to increase pedestrian safety and to enhance aesthetics in that area. What we've got now, he said, is "a busted up parking lot with people parking all over the place. People want something usable and attractive."

In a final eloquent gesture, the Council then voted unanimously to cancel the August meeting.

Margaret Soltan

The Garrett Bugle is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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4th of July Is Upon Us

Think canine! The 2005 theme for the 4th of July parade is "Goin' to the Dogs." (There may even be a category for the best dressed dog in the parade.)

The day's line-up of activities is as follows:

- Fun run/walk around town starts at 8 am at Penn Place.
- Registration for the parade is at 9:45 am at the parking lot of Garrett Park Elementary.
- The parade steps off at 10:30 am. The route is different this year: In honor of the completion of Strathmore Avenue, we will march from the school down Strathmore to Clermont Avenue, then down Clermont to the tennis courts, and turn right to finish at Penn Place. (The route will be posted in Penn Place a week before.) Immediately after the parade, the electric quartet of Tony Altar, David Hayes, Cheikh Ndjie, and Peter Eisenhauer will play jazz-rock fusion music at Penn Place. In addition, the Black Market is providing cookies and fruit after the parade. The Citizens Association will also be selling hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers.
- Swimming pool events take place from 1 pm to 4 pm.
- The annual softball game starts at 3 pm behind Garrett Park Elementary.
- Finally, at 6 pm, there will be dining and dancing at Penn Place. Bring your own tables and chairs and your own food; gas grills will be available for those who want to cook their food on site. Again, the Black Market is providing cookies and fruit for this event. The music will be provided by the country rock quintet popularly known as Border State. The members are John Bennett, Karen Cole, Lou Levy, Larry Roberts, and Tony Altar.

If it rains and activities are cancelled, there is *no* rain date for the parade.

The Citizens Association is gearing up for all the festivities and could use your help. Anyone willing to help with registration, judging, cooking or selling food, etc, please call Matt Stavish. If you want to join the parade band, or carry the bamboo pole, call Meme Lincoln and leave a message. Anyone willing to carry the flags during the parade? Call Matt.

Come out and play!

Summer Game Nights Thursdays in July 6 pm at Cambria Park

Games for kids & adults! Bring dinner: grills, paper goods, condiments, & drinks provided.

Rain cancels.

Garrett Park
Citizens Association

Proposed Zoning Revisions

Anticipated to be on the agenda for the July 14 (or later) 2005 Montgomery County Planning Board meeting is a zoning text amendment to the Garrett Park Overlay Zone. This amendment is aimed at better regulating the bulk and mass of new homes, additions, and accessory buildings without significantly reducing their allowable floor area. Working with the Planning Board staff, the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee hopes to have draft language of the zoning text amendment to present to the Town Council at its July 11 meeting.

The commitment of the Planning Board to assist the town with the analysis and refinement of our proposed amendment was the result of a request from both Nancy Floreen, County Councilmember, At Large, and Howard Denis, County Councilmember, District 1, to Derick Berlage, Chairman of the Park and Planning Commission.

At its July 2004 meeting, the Town Council voted unanimously "That the Mayor and Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee request support from the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission in amending the Garrett Park Overlay Zone (Sec. 59C-18.11 of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance) to regulate better the bulk and mass of new homes, additions and accessory buildings without significantly reducing the allowable floor area."

This Town Council vote was in response to a December 2001 poll.

We're Green Again!

Thanks this month for our green banner go to George and Anne Martin. We remained green for this printing year thanks to the generosity of our Garrett Parkers. Now on to the next year! There will be no printing of the *Bugle* during July or August, but we're always willing to take items and keep them for the September issue. Get them to Barbara Collier, Margaret Soltan, or me (see the box on p 2 for details). Have a safe and happy summer from all of us on the staff.

Mary Moyer

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Letter to the Editor

Penn Place Parking

The Kensington Gazette, reporting on the Town Council's May meeting, said the Council was considering spending from \$206,000 to \$304,000 to "fix the town's parking problem" around Penn Place. (The paper blamed the problem on the popularity of the new Black Market Bistro.) This seems like a lot to spend for a town that has just seen \$2.8 million go into the Penn Place building and grounds and still owes \$700,000 plus for the project, so I spent a few hours researching the proposal.

It turns out that cost would be more like \$265,000 to \$329,000. Further, if proposals from the town's consultant are adopted, we could actually end up with 10 to 17 fewer parking places in the "Park Place" area. (This name, I learned, refers not to the Monopoly game, but rather to the area on Rokeby next to the railroad, where the temporary post office was.)

One proposal would restore the center island in the middle of Rokeby. If this is done, on the west side of Rokeby, instead of vertical parking (cars heading into the curb) that would accommodate 19 to 25 cars, only seven or eight would be able to park horizontal to the curb. On Saturdays, when the farmer's market is open, one way would likely be blocked.

At present, there are 68 places in the Park Place area, around the Penn Building, and up Waverly to Montrose. This is the very minimum we are required to provide: 17 places for MARC commuters and 51 places mandated by the building code for the Penn Building. If we lose spaces in the Park Place area, we must add others elsewhere. One proposal would widen Waverly above Montrose by as much as 10 feet to provide parking spaces.

Does the "parking problem" in Garrett Park require a \$300,000 solution? Eight places are now

Visit Garrett Park's Website:

www.garrettpark.org/

available for 20-minute post office parking. Their average use is less than three minutes, so they can accommodate as many as 120 cars per hour. Commuters have no problem parking for the morning trains. Customers seem to have no problem reaching the Black Market (we're fortunate, by the way, to have such a high class restaurant in our community, and our real estate values are a beneficiary).

The proposals for Park Place include a cost of \$88,000 to relocate utility poles and \$5,000 to move the fire hydrant. They also would add concrete curbs and gutters, and likely white lines to mark parking places, which seem out of character for Garrett Park.

The only part of the plan that seems essential is the addition of a sidewalk along the west side of Rokeby. This seems important from a safety standpoint and comes with a price tag of only \$16,000—a bit less than half the amount proposed for just the design and layout costs for the parking project.

In summary, let's build the sidewalk now to help link the town, but walk away (at least for the moment) from major changes in the Park Place area. This could save from \$240,000 to \$300,000—or \$600 plus for each family in Garrett Park.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

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Arboretum Notes

We are pleased to have Karol Soltan appointed as arboretum liaison with

the Town Council this May. Karol has demonstrated a keen interest for the balancing considerations of tree removals, pruning, and new planting locations to help us develop a well-rounded annual program for strengthening the Arboretum collections as we move toward fall planting season. Welcome aboard, Karol.

GIVES Update

Thank you to Bonnie Tyler for her response to our call for volunteers. Still looking—please call us. We will be in the P.O. lobby on Saturday, July 9, rather than Saturday, July 4. Bonnie Tyler will be there from 9 to 11 am, and Gerilee Bennett from 11 to 1 pm. We hope to have volunteers in the lobby on Saturday, August 6. Thank you, everyone, for your generous contributions this month to Bill Burnett, Juliana Franz, and Pat Aufderheide (and thanks to Pat for her article in the last *Bugle* soliciting volunteers). Envelopes are available in the P.O. Watch for updated information on Tsunami Relief and Recovery Work and on the Zacchaeus Community Kitchen. Questions? Call Glenda Ingham.

GPES

School finished with a bang this year. The School Video Club (GPVC) won the MHz Networks "Shortie" award for excellence in filmmaking. MHz Networks has a national nationwide student film competition, and the Video Club won for the best live action film in the 7 to 10 year old category for their film "The Phantom of the School," a story about a ghost who haunts Garrett Park Elementary School. The club includes Peter Ionno of the town, and was sponsored by Suzanne Hickey.

The Garrett Park Idol School was a huge success, even though there was a minimum of time to rehearse. We met our goal without the PTA's money needed, and the extra computers have been ordered.

The chorus, band, and strings presented their concerts in fine form. Having heard some of the concerts in the other schools, I can say that our students did us proud. The scholarship winner for next year is Karina Romero, a student of the violin. Come to the musicale next spring and hear her perform.

And finally, the last days of school brought a rash of changes. Jack Worrow had a retirement party June 3 in the Town Hall after 34 years of teaching (not all at Garrett Park). And then announcements started being made of other staff personnel moving on. Marcia Phillips, the Media specialist, is moving to Rock Creek Valley School to be nearer to her home—she can walk to school each day! Doreen Davidson (art teacher) is leaving for a full time position at Rock Creek forest. Elizabeth MacKusick (kindergarten) will be taking a leave of absence to do more studying and traveling. Connie VanLieshout (4th grade teacher) will be coaching swimming in Rockville and at CU, and teaching at Cannon Road. Jane Oh (4th grade) will be taking over Rosanna Rensberger's position as an academic support person. There may be a few more changes over the summer; we'll let you know in the fall.

With the new attendance procedures in place (i.e., the computer program) it is more important

than ever that you call the school when your child is going to be absent and provide the excuse. An excuse has to be put in the computer, and if we don't know what it is, we put in "unexcused." So next year, try to keep the office informed of plans. The teachers didn't always send the office the emails that you sent saying a child was going to be out and why. Be sure to notify both the teacher and the other staff. Thank you.

Construction of the new addition is set to begin in mid-July, but it will not be ready for use until school year 2006–07. But the children will have an excellent on-site view of the process, even if they do lose some of their playground room. This should afford the office staff some excitement this summer. The school's office will be open from 9 until 1 every day, except for one week in August, when the office will be cleaned. We'll be looking forward to seeing everyone at the school open house on August 26.

Mary Moyer

Obituary

Michael Griffin

On Sunday, May 1, 2005, Michael Griffin of Olney passed away from cancer. Mike was the son of George and the late Sibyl Griffin and grew up in Garrett Park. He swam for the Garrett Park Swim Team and was on both the swim and diving teams at Walter Johnson High School. Graduating from Montgomery College with an AA in Architectural Arts and the University of Maryland with his bachelor's degree in education, Mike became a school teacher and taught most recently at Francis Scott Key Middle School. He was also a cub scout while growing up here, which led him to become a scout leader as an adult. He enjoyed all aspects of woodworking and was also a stained glass hobbyist. Mike leaves behind his wife Sheryl Martin Griffin and their twin daughters Kaitlyn Marie and Allison MacKenzie. He also leaves behind sons James George and David Russell along with his father George, brother Howard, and sister Sally Griffin.

Bugle Notes...Sweet and Sour

- Shannon (Almy) and Steve Levin presented the Almy family with another grandchild on May 25. The little girl was born in Virginia, and her older brother seems to be coping just fine.
- ▶ Barbara Shidler regrets the departure of her grandson Jacob, living with her since last October. Jake did volunteer work in the Town Office before beginning his data entry jobs.
- Dan Rehbehn earned an Excellence in Costume Crafts at the American College Theatre Festival at the Kennedy Center in January for his work on "Henry V—The Warrior Project." During the spring semester he did the costume design for "Marat/Sade" at Towson, and he just finished the costume designs for "Tara's Crossing" at the Half Moon Theatre in New York City.
- Reminder to the pool membership: Grosvenor Market Day is July 10 from 12 to 2 this year. The Market provides hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas, and pool members supply the side dishes. Molly Shuck says they'd love a crowd.
- A nice informal supper was held in the Schwartzes' back yard on May 31 to welcome home the travelling cyclist. About 30 neighbors and friends turned out to hear some details of the 3000+ mile cross-country trip that he made. As of that moment, he had grown a little something extra on his face, which made him look quite distinguished in a teddy bear way.
- Scott Morgan, a junior at Franklin and Marshall College, was designated a John Kershner Scholar of mathematics and of physics and astronomy.
- Four Garrett Parkers are appearing in "Gypsy," presented by Montgomery Playhouse from June 3 to 26 (Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm, Sunday afternoons at 3 pm). Jacqui Joseph plays Baby June, Lori Sampson plays Mazeppa, and Emma Sampson and Jessica Joseph play two of Jocko's kids. Jessica Joseph will also be playing the role of Molly in
 - Mimi Keisler, GRI

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- "Strange Bedfellows" the last two weekends in July. For more information, visit the Montgomery Playhouse website: www.montgomeryplay house.org.
- Penn Place was awarded a 2005 Montgomery County Award for Historic Preservation. It was one of seven projects in Montgomery County to be selected by Montgomery Preservation Inc. this year to win an award for construction, renovation, and restoration.
- Lucia Petito (violin) and Max Coleman (clarinet) are finalists of the Young Artist Compitition, and each is to perform a movement of a concerto with the Baltimore Symphony.

More Graduates

We heard about a few more graduates since the May *Bugle*:

College grads

Steven Andrews earned a BA from Princeton in geosciences and East Asian studies. Next year he will be in Sudan in Africa with Princeton working for the International Rescue Committee.

Ian Gifford graduated last December from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and is in a PhD program in chemistry at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Laura Gordon is receiving a BA from Fordham University, with a double major in psychology and Spanish. She is coaching the Stone Ridge swim team this summer and wants to start working in the field of child psychology.

Chris Hager graduated last December from James Madison University; he is living in GP and going into real estate with Long and Foster.

Amy Salomon is receiving a BA from the University of Pennsylvania in art history; she will teach in NYC next year with Teach for America.

Claire Schwartz earned an MA in public policy from UCLA, and next year will be in a PhD program at Harvard or Columbia (last we heard).

Rebecca Stewart graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from Skidmore College.

High school grads

Dan Andrews is graduating from WJ and will go to Denison University after taking a year off.

Abby Gordon is graduating from Holy Child and is going to Cushing Academy next year.

Katrina Morgan is graduating from National Cathedral School and will attend Rice University.

Rachel Saperstein is graduating from WJ and is going to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she will play on the women's soccer team.

Lizzie Youle is graduating from WJ and will be attending Hampshire College.

Letter from the Mayor

The June 4 retirement party for our retiring postmaster, Veronica Sauvain, was a real tribute to both Veronica and our town. Many people came, bringing all kinds of wonderful food. It was a celebration of the wonderful service that she has given us as postmaster and of Garrett Park as a vibrant community. I am especially grateful to Donal McLaughlin for responding to my lastminute plea to do a drawing/watercolor of the Post Office. He said to go take a photo and bring it that evening and I would have the drawing the next day. (Donal will be 98 in July.) It was made even more beautiful by the framing job that Dave Almy did instantly. By mid-morning of the event, Dave was at my door with a splendid framed picture. Jane Salomon got one of her paintings ready for presentation by the Woman's Club, and the Women's Club also did the drinks and setup. We were happy that Senator Jennie Forehand and Delegate Simmons spent much of the afternoon with us.

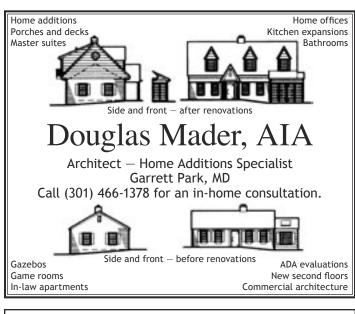
Senator Forehand joined us again for the Monday, June 6, Coffee/Tea Break at Penn Place. The next Coffee/Tea Break will be September 12—the second Monday (the first Monday is Labor Day). In October we will return to the first Monday.

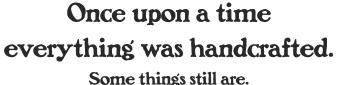
On June 26, two Councilmembers join me to go to the Maryland Municipal League Annual

meeting in Ocean City. It is *not* a vacation. We have four different classes or sessions each day about various issues related to municipal activities. (I didn't tell either Tony Altar or Karol Soltan when they signed up to go that I only saw the ocean at a distance from my fifth floor hotel last year.) I learned a great deal from the presentations and by conversations with mayors and council members from other jurisdictions. The contacts I made at the meetings have been very helpful in the past year and have served Garrett Park well.

Have a safe and happy summer. Please remember to drive slowly and carefully in town.







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Film Society: Tampopo

A great foodie movie! And great food! Friday, July 22, will be another wonderful night in Garrett Park Town Hall. Come for a locally prepared Japanese dinner. As always, the prices will be more than fair, and the fare will be fabulous. And stick around, of course, to watch *Tampopo*, an utterly charming Japanese film from 1985. If you've been searching for a movie that describes the search for the perfect noodle restaurant, look no more! Roger Ebert's opening paragraph in his review described it as "... one of those utterly original movies that seems to exist in no known category... a bemused meditation on human nature in which one humorous situation flows into another offhandedly, as if life were a series of smiles." Tampopo manages to brilliantly stirfry Japanese food—and other—obsessions into cowboy themes. It includes a delicious, hilarious platter of food-related vignettes, as well as Tampopo's efforts to reach noodle nirvana—which involves recipe-stealing, countless kitchen maneuvers, confrontations with rival dough boilers, and at one point, a meeting with a group of gourmet hobos expert in the garbage of the best restaurants. Just about everything in *Tampopo* bears mentioning, from the husband who temporarily brings his dead wife back to life by ordering her

to make dinner, to the pseudo-sage who imparts the Zen of soup-eating. Makes me hungry just thinking about it...

Tampopo will be shown at the Garrett Park Town Hall, Friday night, July 22. Dinner will be offered beginning at 7:15 pm. The film follows at 8 pm. There is no charge for members of the Film Society for the movie. Nonmembers may pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door.

Jack Mandel



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